**Name**

**Date**

**Hour**

**Teacher**

***This Migrant Earth* Discussion Questions**

**Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

**“Water, Water Everywhere” (Pages 9-11)**

1. Why won’t the owner (“the old guy”) let the field hands stop to drink water at all, let them drink the water for the stock, or even let them bring their own water?
2. Why do the people listen to him?
3. What does the owner plan to do to the boy who got a drink from the stock tank? What does the foreman actually do?
4. What happens to the owner after this incident?
5. What do you think of this story? Write down your reaction and anything else that comes to mind as you reflect on it.

**Name**

**Date**

**Hour**

**Teacher**

***This Migrant Earth* Discussion Questions**

**Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

**“Burnt Offerings” (Pages 12-15)**

1. What do the Garcías go and watch at the beginning of the story? What does the father Efraín do afterwards with his two sons?
2. What is Efraín referring to when he says: “You know, wouldn’t it be something if one of the kids was real good at this”? What is the “this” and how would their lives change if it were true?
3. Describe Efraín’s view of his family. In other words, how does he feel about his wife and kids? What is one thing that the parents do for their kids that shows how they feel about them?
4. What happened to the kids while the parents were working in the fields?
5. Why is it ironic that the gloves don’t burn up but two of the kids do? What do you think the author is trying to say when he describes the gloves not burning up? Do you have any other reactions to this story?

**Name**

**Date**

**Hour**

**Teacher**

***This Migrant Earth* Discussion Questions**

**Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

**“This Migrant Earth” (Pages 75-84)**

1. Why is his mother crying?
2. What disease do his aunt and uncle have? What happened to them as a result?
3. Who has the disease now?
4. Who is the dialogue mainly between in the first section and subsequent sections?
5. Where does the family live?
6. How does the oldest son feel about his parents’ praying and about God?
7. Read the dialogue below from page 79 again:

Oldest brother/son: “Why *us*, Ma? Why should we be treated like animals, yeah. Animals…without hope. And here’s what really kills me, Ma. You know what kind-a hope we got? Do you, Ma? *Our* hope is that *we* make it back here, to this place, next year. There’s some hope, that is. And, and, like you say, we’ll rest when we die. But who wants *that*? Rest when we die…”

Ma: “Death will give us peace. And rest…”

Oldest brother/son: “…I know what you’re going to say. I know exactly what you’re going to say: ‘The Poor Are Going to Heaven.’ Right?”

Why does he feel so hopeless and angry? Have you ever felt that way? Why?

1. What kind of instructions does the oldest brother give to his younger siblings?
2. How old is the youngest brother? What happens to him?
3. Read the last section (pages 82-84) again. What do you think of the ending of this story? Is it resolved? Is it a triumphant ending or one of defeat? Did the earth swallow/devour him? (Remember that this story is what the entire book was named after. In Spanish, it is …*y no se lo tragó la tierra*. Take into account what that means.)